

Application No.: 10/624013

Case No.: 54060US011

Remarks

Claims 1 to 11 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion; specifically, on line 1, "the" before substrate has been changed to "a".

Claims 1-8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO99/12654 (Jevons), and claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jevons.

Applicants assert that the rejection of claims over Jevons is improper, as the Jevons reference does not qualify as 102(b) or 103(a) prior art to the present application. The publication date of Jevons is March 18, 1999. The present application is a divisional of Application Serial Number 09/623,750. Case 09/623,750 is a 371 of PCT/US99/05053, which has a priority date of March 9, 1999. Copies of the 371 transmittal and the filing receipt for Application Serial No. 09/623,750 are enclosed. Thus the present application claims benefit to the March 9, 1999 filing date, which pre-dates the March 18, 1999 publication date of Jevons.

Therefore, the rejection of claims over Jevons has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

June 30, 2004
Date

By: Pamela L. Stewart
Pamela L. Stewart, Reg. No.: 45,707
Telephone No.: (651) 733-2059

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833